

Army Community Service
61 Quebec Street, BLD 683
Fort Devens, MA 01434-4479

Serving the Military in New England

December 2014

DECEMBER 2014

Army Community Service



Fort Devens Welcome Center

61 Quebec Street, Building 683

ACS Hours of Operation

0730-1600 Monday -Friday

<https://www.devens.army.mil>

ACS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

978-796-3023/ 3119 DSN 256-3023/ 3119

MILITARY ONE SOURCE

1-800-342-9647 Available 24/7/365

www.MilitaryOneSource.mil



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ACS DIRECTOR

Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season. Army Community Service is here to help you through the season. Don't let stress or financial worries get the best of you.

Fort Devens 2014 Holiday Party Civilian Welfare Fund

Please join us in celebrating the 2014 Holiday Season. Point of contact for this event is Sandy Burson at 978-796-2126 or sandy.l.burson.civ@mail.mil

Date: Thursday, 18 December 2014

Time: 1200

Location: Command Conference Room, BLD 679, 31 Quebec Street, Devens, MA

RSVP: Head count needed NLT 5 December 2014. Please include guest's name if attending to Sandy Burson.

FINANCIAL

Holiday Spending: The average American spends more than \$1,000 during the holiday season. Much of that spending is on credit cards, which means that many people face big bills in the New Year. The key to keeping holiday spending (or almost any kind of spending) under control is planning and sticking to a budget. By planning your holiday spending carefully, you can save money and still keep the holidays happy. Remember to start early! Sometimes bargains can be found in advance.

Setting a holiday budget: The first step in controlling holiday expenses is deciding exactly how much you can afford to spend. There are four main areas in which most people spend: gifts, entertaining, travel and decorating. And each one comes with hidden expenses. For example, gift-giving costs much more than the price of each gift. You also have to consider wrapping and, often, shipping costs. Take time to make a list of everyone you want to buy gifts for. Include teachers, the mailman, co-workers, newspaper delivery people and anyone else you usually end up giving a gift. Step back and consider your list. Are there people who could get a card rather than a gift? Are there people you could chip in on a gift for rather than paying for it by yourself? Next, set a price limit for each gift. For example, you might decide that you'll set a \$30 limit on immediate family members, \$20 on children in your family and \$10 on acquaintances like co-workers or teachers. Don't forget to add in the cost of wrapping paper and shipping, including what you'll pay for a gift ordered through a catalog or online to reach you before you ship it to the recipient.

Holiday Spending Quiz: This quiz can help you re-evaluate your spending patterns during the holidays.



- Do you spend money freely during the holidays without first having set an overall dollar limit for the season's purchases?
- Do you use credit, instead of cash, to purchase many of your holiday gifts and home decorations?
- Does it normally take you the majority of the following year to pay off your holiday credit purchases?

- Do you use the “no payment ‘til February” option on your credit purchases with the hope that you will have the money to pay when the bills come due?
- Do you plan to take out a loan so that you and your family can have a “nice holiday season”?
- Do you compete with friends and relatives to see who can give the biggest or most expensive holiday gifts?

Be honest with yourself. If you answered “yes” to two or more of the above questions, it may be time to re-evaluate your holiday spending and debt patterns.

SOLDIER AND FAMILIES

Register for Holiday Toy Distribution:

Join
**Operation
Homefront**
for
**holiday
TOY DISTRIBUTION**

Eligible recipients include:

- Deployed, wounded, and active duty service members of any rank
- National Guardsmen and Reservists on Title 32 orders of any rank

Worcester: Wednesday, Dec. 10th 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wellesley & Springfield: Saturday, Dec 13th
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Taunton: Sunday, Dec. 14th, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Register at <https://events.operationhomefront.net>

Priority Three

Scholarships for Military Children Program: enters its 15th year, more than 8,000 students have shared nearly \$13 million in scholarships. Applications for the 2015-2016 school-year awards become available starting Dec. 15 at commissaries worldwide or on the Internet at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

An applicant must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of a service member on active duty, Reserve or Guard member, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty, or survivor of a retiree. Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 13, 2015. Packages must be hand-delivered or shipped via U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods, not emailed or faxed.

Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsor are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and have a military ID card. The applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2015 or be enrolled in studies designed to transfer to a four-year program. Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship or receive an appointment to one of the military academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program. A full scholarship is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other expenses. For more information, students or sponsors should call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email them at militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

Child Care Subsidy Websites Good information to have for assistance with the high cost of childcare <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/26331>
http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wreaths Across America: is a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and other Military Cemeteries.

This year's ceremony will be held on Saturday, 13 December, 2014, at 10AM. If you would like to sponsor a wreath to be placed on a veteran's grave during the wreath ceremony that will be held at the Fort Devens Post Cemetery, please access the Wreath Across America link above. This link will take you directly to the Fort Devens Post Cemetery site.

- The first step is to click on the link provided at the top of this page. Doing so will take you directly to the Fort Devens Post Cemetery site.
- Then look to the right side of the page and you will see a RED Box that states, "Click here to sponsor a wreath."

- Then Fill in the requested information to make your donation. You will see the wreath donation and then scroll down below and you will see the billing information. Please fill out all required information.
- Select **NEXT** at the bottom of the page.
- On the following page, review your information for correctness and click **PROCESS** at the bottom.
- Mission complete.

The Wreath(s) will then be shipped directly to the Fort Devens Supply Facility (Central Receiving Point) for temporary storage and held there until 13 December, 2014, at which time the Wreath(s) will be transported to the Fort Devens Cemetery for placement on a Veteran's grave. **All are welcome to attend the ceremony.**

TICKETS AND TOURS

TICKETS AND TOURS, (781) 225-6505/6498 Hanscom AFB, 98 Barksdale Street Bldg
<http://www.hanscomservices.com/> PREPAID ORDERS ONLY!! Payment is due at the time the order is placed. Once the order has been placed there are no refunds.

HANSCOM AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS CENTER **DECEMBER 2014**

Please Call 781-225-2765 to Register

SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM is available to coordinate and assist military and DoD civilian parents with school-age children with educational opportunities and information necessary to succeed in an academic environment. Call 781-225-2765 for assistance/information.

SOMEONE TO TALK TO when you need it: Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) provide free, short-term, non-medical, solution-oriented counseling on a range of issues. For service members and their families – no records are kept. Call (781) 879-7654 and leave your first name only for an appointment!

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides a confidential, free counseling service on a wide range of personal & work concerns for DoD civilian, NAF & DECA employees as well as their family members. The EAP offers Financial & Legal services as well. Contact Ina Bachman, LICSW, CEAP at 1-800-222-0364 for an appointment & check out the website www.FOH4you.com . ** On site every Monday!!

VA BENEFITS ADVISORS *are available.* Please contact them at 781-225-2624/2625. Located in Bldg 1217.

VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY CLAIMS REVIEW : Fridays (By Appointment Only) A representative from AMVETS, a veterans service organization, will assist you in processing your disability claim and answer questions. **Call 617-303-5698 for an appointment.**

****PRIVATE SECTOR & FEDERAL RESUME CRITIQUE**

By 'in person' appointment only - Resumes are reviewed by an employment specialist with HR experience- get feedback to improve your format and content. Email your résumé to

66.fss.fsfr.cmb@us.af.mil & receive an appointment within 7 business days. Prior attendance at an A&FRC Résumé Writing class is recommended.

Preseparation Counseling | Every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. | (December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Weekly sessions for separating and retiring service members to complete the mandatory DD Form 2648, Preseparation Counseling. The session provides critical information about benefits, resources and services available to transition from military to civilian life. This counseling must be provided at least 90 days prior to date of separation or retirement. Service members must complete the counseling prior to attending the Transition-GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) Workshop.

Predeployment Briefing | Every Friday from 2-3 p.m. | (December 5, 12, 19)

Mandatory for personnel tasked with a TDY/Deployment of 30 days or longer. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. Briefings are held every Friday at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. To register or for more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Guilt-Free Holidays | Monday, Dec. 1

Spend a few minutes thinking about what giving really means. Join the Airman & Family Readiness Center on **Monday, December 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.** and learn how to waste less time on negative feelings and focus more time on enjoying the holidays. Plus: create a gift for a friend or coworker! For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Caregiver Peer to Peer Support Initiative | Tuesday, Dec. 2

Are you a military caregiver? If so, please join us in a conversation with your peers on **Tuesday, December 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Community Support Center.** The Caregiver Peer to Peer Support Initiative wants to hear from you. Learn of the issues impacting you day-to-day. Hear what your needs are. Connect you with other military caregiver. POC: Bobbie Kendall | 603-552-7844, Bobbie.kendall.ctr@us.af.mil

Bundles for Babies | Thursday, Dec. 4

The Airman & Family Readiness Center is offering Bundles for Babies on **Thursday, December 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** If you are in your 2nd or 3rd trimester, join us to learn about caring for your newborn, budgeting for baby, TRICARE coverage, dental care, base and community services, SIDS, breastfeeding, car seat safety, Baby-Makes-Three, and more! Sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society and open to all branches of services. Dads are strongly encouraged to attend! To register or for more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Preparing for Holiday Travel | Friday, Dec. 5

Planning a road trip for a PCS or to visit relatives during the holidays? Join the Airman & Family Readiness Center on **Friday, December 5 from 12-12:30 p.m.** and learn how to plan for a smooth trip, reduce boredom and passenger conflicts, stay safe and take advantage of cool points of interest along the way. For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Effective Interviewing | Monday, Dec. 8

While your technical skills will get you the interview, your behavioral attributes play an equally important role to getting you the job. Join us at the Airman & Family Readiness Center on **Monday, December 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** as we discuss preparation and proven strategies for a successful interview, either in person, by telephone or Skype. Sample technical and behavioral questions will be provided along with tips on how to answer these tough questions. For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

How to Cope with Winter Blues | Wednesday, Dec. 10

When the late autumn and winter months roll around, do you ever start to feel a loss of energy, have more difficulty concentrating, or lose interest in activities you used to enjoy? If so, you may be experiencing the “winter blues.” Join Hanscom’s Military and Family Life Counselor at the Airman & Family Readiness Center on **Wednesday, December 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** to learn more about this seasonal phenomenon and what you can do to counteract its effects. For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Not Home for the Holidays? Plus: The T & City Orientation | Friday, Dec. 12

The Airman and Family Readiness Center invites you to a free workshop: Not Home for the Holidays? and the T & City Orientation on **Friday, December 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Learn to celebrate the holidays like New Englanders! Start some new family traditions! Receive & share information on upcoming events and attractions. Learn how to navigate the local public transportation system. Ride into Boston with us using the T! All you need is \$5.30 for subway fares. This program is part of the community orientation for in processing. Newly arrived service members are not required to take leave to attend. For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Transition: GPS Workshop | Monday-Friday, Dec. 15-19 | 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Airman & Family Readiness Center

All military attendees must have completed DD Form 2648/1 (Preseparation Counseling) prior to the workshop. Mandatory for all service members. Spouses welcome. Assists voluntarily and involuntarily separating, and retiring service members with career and life transition. This five day program consists of a VA benefits briefing, DOL Employment Workshop, modules on financial planning, Military Occupational Code (MOC), Crosswalk, and preparation and review of Individual Transition Plans (ITP). All military attendees must be enrolled in eBenefits.va.gov prior to the workshop. Please bring your own laptop. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Installation Commander's Welcome | Monday, Dec. 15 | 8 -11:30 a.m. |Brown Building, 1305

Your official introduction to Hanscom AFB features essential base and local community information for new arrivals. Spouses and other service personnel at HAFB are encouraged to attend!

Medical Squadron Welcome | for clinic beneficiaries (mandatory for military) from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
First Duty Station Officer's Financial Briefing | 2-3:30 p.m. | Airman & Family Readiness Center

Family Welcome | Tuesday, Dec. 16

Learn about Hanscom AFB and the surrounding communities on **Tuesday, December 16 from 10-11 a.m.** at the Community Support Center, bldg. 1217. Children are welcome to attend! Receive money saving tips and shopping information while learning about schools, recreation, local attractions, safety, security, education, employment and more. For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Relax! | Wednesday, Dec. 17

Take a well-deserved break from the stress of the holiday season with Hanscom's Military and Family Life Counselor at the Airman & Family Readiness Center on **Wednesday, December 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Learn 7 techniques and experience how to truly and intentionally commit to adding relaxation to your schedule. For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Hearts Apart Holiday Party | Wednesday, Dec. 17

Families of deployed, remote tour & extended TDY service members are invited to join us at the Minuteman Commons on **Wednesday, December 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** for a festive celebration of the winter holiday season! Please RSVP by Friday, December 12 by calling the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 781-225-2765 or via e-mail to shon.teicheira@us.af.mil

Family Holiday Traditions | Friday, Dec. 19

Yankee swaps, family recipes, decorating rituals, gatherings with friends, holiday toasts and special music selections are just a few joyous traditions that families enjoy during the holidays. Join us at the Community Support Center on **Friday, December 19 from 12-12:30 p.m.** and learn about types of traditions, why they are important, and how to create them. Celebrate and create fond family memories. For more information, contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Family Advocacy Outreach

CELL PHONE COLLECTION: The Family Advocacy Program collects used and old cell phones, and distributes them to local domestic violence agencies. Drop off phones, batteries, and chargers to the Family Advocacy Program, Bldg 1217. Please put each phone and its accessories in a sealed, plastic bag.

WIC, a nutrition and education program for income-eligible expectant parents or parents with children age birth to five is located on base. * **WIC is located in Bldg 1507** *. **WIC is on base the first and third Wednesday** of each month from 0800 to 1530. For WIC appointments or information, call (617) 312-9974.

First Connections- Is a non-profit, family support organization that provides comprehensive services to families with young children birth through age five. First Connections serves a large geographic area that encompasses twelve metro-west communities, including Hanscom Air Force Base. All programs are free or low cost. More information is available on their website www.firstconnections.org or by calling 781-287-0221.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

From Army Times on Web: Please see links below. Make sure you copy and paste the whole address.

<http://www.armytimes.com/interactive/article/20141019/JOBS02/310190027/These-federal-contractors-hiring-vets-now>

Also:

<http://www.armytimes.com/article/20141019/JOBS/310190026/Overseas-federal-contractor-jobs-common-industry>

Veterans Employment Center: A new online resource, the Veterans Employment Center, officially launched on April 23, 2014! The site is the first interagency tool to bring both public and private job opportunities, a resume-builder, military skills translator and detailed career and training resources together in one place.

At the Joining Forces anniversary celebration, First Lady Michelle Obama stated, "Starting today, every single service member, every veteran, and every military family will have access to a new online tool that will revolutionize how you find jobs in both the public and private sectors. All you have to do is log on to ebenefits.va.gov."

This new eBenefits feature incorporates numerous tools and resources for job seekers, as well as employers who want high quality applicants. Veterans, service members and their spouses or dependents, who are looking for work, transitioning out of the military or changing careers are encouraged to utilize the Veterans Employment Center. Users can access the Skills Translator function to translate military terms to civilian skills or just go right to the Resume Builder tool. Resumes created on the site will be available to private and public sector employers who specifically want to hire veterans. Veterans Employment Center is found at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. eBenefits Fact Sheet http://www.nvti.ucdenver.edu/home/buzz_xtra/eBenefits_factsheet.pdf

The Federal Resume Database:



THE FEDERAL RESUME DATABASE
SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL RESUME SAMPLES FROM 6 POPULAR FEDERAL RESUME BOOKS BY KATHRYN TROUTMAN



150 Samples of Samples of Military Transition, Military Spouse, Student Veteran, and Government Federal Employee Federal Resumes From Current Titles and CD-ROMs by Kathryn Troutman



<http://www.resume-place.com/imcomacs>
Username: IMCOMACS
Password: getajob

The Resume Place, Inc. -- www.resume-place.com -- (888) 480-8265

Free Vocational Training for Veterans: The Veterans Training School (VTS) is recruiting unemployed and under-employed Veterans for the following vocational free vocational programs: Apply today! Email Andrew Moyseowicz or call 617-371—1810. Find more online at www.nechv.org

Career Opportunities: An update that we now have a "Career Opportunities" link on our website which will have all the information regarding our current job opening, description, and how to apply...

<http://www.veteransinc.org/about-us/career-opportunities/>

Labor Ready : Provides temp jobs to those interested in gaining work experience, want some extra cash, or need immediate income when between jobs or need seasonal work. Flexible work hours; get paid the same day. Over 600 locations throughout the United States.

<http://www.laborready.com/Temporary-Employment>

The above information is provided as a community service. No endorsement of events, products or services by the DoD is implied or intended. For more information, contact the company directly.

Free Resume Help for Military Members : The below website is where Service Members can get free resume writing help and the course schedule. <http://www.networkri.org/centers.htm>

USA JOB: JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON THE BASE - Remember to go to www.USAJOBS.GOV and search for Newport, RI if you are interested in finding out and applying for positions open onboard the Naval Station. Current opportunities include a Motor Vehicle Operator that's open through next week. Spread the word! USAJOBS - The Federal Government's Official Jobs Site www.USAJOBS.GOV This is a United States Office of Personnel Management website. USAJOBS is the Federal Government's official one-stop source for Federal jobs and employment information.

Job Search: Below please find a link to critical skills needed at Booz Allen Hamilton. Please share with your contacts and have all interested email me their resumes and I will submit on their behalf – this speeds up the review process. Also, applicants must identify the job skills qualification from the list. <https://erp.bah.com/hotjobs.htm>

Website: Career Resources for Veterans: The Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE) recently collaborated with PBS to produce a handbook for military families. Created as a companion to the PBS series "This Emotional Life," A Handbook for Family & Friends of Service Members explores the stressors and feelings individuals may encounter throughout the different phases of deployment. The handbook aims to provide solutions for Service members and identifies outside tools and resources that may be useful to friends and family members before, during and after deployment. Topics include what to expect during deployment and how to strengthen or repair relationships. Order the handbooks from the Real Warriors Campaign website at <http://www.sc.edu/career/Webresources/veterans.html>

<http://www.realwarriors.net/materials/order>

Hanscom AFS: Resources <http://www.hanscom.af.mil>

Massachusetts Career Information System: <http://masscis.intocareers.org/default.asp>

Veterans Employment Services (978) 534-1481 x 117 www.wmoore@detma.org

Orion International: info@orioninternational.com

RELOCATION READINESS

ACS has listings for apartments or houses to rent. List is updated as housing is made available to us. Call 978-796-3023. ACS Electronic Welcome Packets

<http://www.devens.army.mil> or call 978-796-3023

Moving and Relocation Information: Terrific tips to make moving easier.

<http://afmove.hq.af.mil/Default.asp>

TRICARE Information at Hanscom AFB:

Hanscom AFB offers a monthly Newcomer Orientation Medical Clinic welcome to all new patients every Tuesday from 1300 to 1500. It is strongly recommended that Army personnel attend so they can find out about their provider, how to access emergency services, and referral. Telephone: 781-377-2120

FORT DEVENS SERVICES:

Fort Devens Mail and Distribution: Mail & Distribution Hours are as follows. The Door will be open for box pick up between the following hours. 0730 AM to 1600 PM. Window pick up 0900 AM to 1200 PM 1230 PM to 1430 PM

Education Office: The 99th RSC Education Office is located at 30 Quebec Street, (Building 666) Fort Devens, in Rooms 328, 326, and 324. POC is Lee Achenback at 978-796-2968. Services include educational and career counseling, GI Bill questions and issues, tuition assistance, financial aid and scholarship information as well as test administration and test proctoring.

Police Services Division: Fingerprinting 0930-1030 / 1500-1600 or By Appointment.

Police: 978-796-3333

Physical Security: 978-796-2061

Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Veterans Travel: 800-945-0535 or 402-345-7596

Devens Legal: 978-796-2255

Education Office: 978-796-2331

AAFES / Clothing & Sales: 978-772-6838 / 2065

Photo Section DA Photo: 978-796-2559

Fort Devens ID Cards 978 - 796-2130, Building 683

Billeting: Bldg. 978-796-3201

Distance Learning Center: 978-796-3612 / 2605 / 2626

Transportation: Passenger 978-796-2141/ or 2393 Freight 978-796-2832/ or 2840

Vehicles: 978-796-2141

MASSACHUSETTS RESOURCES: **USO New England:** <http://www.uso-newengland.org/index.htm>

Massachusetts Parks: www.state.ma.us/dem/forparks.htm

Massachusetts Wildlife: www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw

State of Massachusetts Child Care Finder: www.qualitychildcare.org

Massachusetts Getaway Guide: <http://www.mass-vacation.com/>

Massachusetts's area Guides net: <http://massachusetts.ag.smyareaguide.com/>

Boston and Local Area Concerts: <http://www.bostonconcerts.com/>